



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

MLC Centre, Level 10
19-29 Martin Place
Sydney, NSW 2000

Tel: 61-2-9373-9200
E-mail: sydneyiv@state.gov

STEP ONE: Filing the Petition

THE U.S. CITIZEN IS THE PETITIONER & SPONSOR
THE BENEFICIARY IS THE VISA APPLICANT

PLEASE NOTE:

- The I-130 petition cannot be filed until after the marriage has taken place. Unlike filing petitions in the United States, the petition may not be submitted by mail.

To file the petition, the petitioner is required to submit supporting documents for him/herself as well as for his/her spouse (and any children that might be accompanying the visa applicant). Please refer to the attached "Filing I-130 Petitions For Spouses, Children & Stepchildren Petition Checklist". The petitioner is also required to satisfy a Consular Officer that their relationship with the beneficiary is valid and exists for more than just the purpose of immigration. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the petition being referred to U.S. immigration authorities for a decision.

NEW SOUTH WALES
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
QUEENSLAND

- Visa applicants residing in the above-mentioned states come under the consular jurisdiction of the U.S. Consulate General in Sydney for filing and approval of I-130 petitions. The petitioner **must** personally file the petition with the Consulate at Sydney on any **THURSDAY** except U.S. and Australian holidays, between 8:00 a.m. and 12 noon. However, the security guards must screen you before 11:45 a.m. to gain access to the unit.
- The package of instructions, "packet 3", for the visa applicant to apply for his/her visa **will not be mailed until an I-130 petition is filed and approved.**

VICTORIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN TERRITORY
TASMANIA

- Visa applicants residing in the above-mentioned states come under the consular jurisdiction of the U.S. Consulate General in Melbourne for filing and approval of I-130 petitions. The petitioner **must** personally file the petition with the Consulate at Melbourne. Please e-mail the Melbourne Consulate at MelbourneNIV@state.gov for an appointment to lodge the I-130 petition.
- Upon approval of the petition, it will be transferred to Sydney for further processing. **Please note that the visa applicant's final visa interview must take place in Sydney.**
- **The package of instructions for the visa applicant to apply for his/her visa will not be mailed until an I-130 petition is filed, approved and received at the Consulate in Sydney.**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- Visa applicants residing in Western Australia come under the consular jurisdiction of the U.S. Consulate General in Perth for filing and approval of I-130 petitions. The petitioner **must** personally file the petition with the Consulate at Perth. The hours for filing petitions at Perth are Monday to Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- Upon approval of the petition, it will be transferred to Sydney for further processing. **Please note that the visa applicant's final visa interview must take place in Sydney.**
- **The package of instructions for the visa applicant to apply for his/her visa will not be mailed until an I-130 petition is filed, approved and received at the Consulate in Sydney.**



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STEP TWO: Receiving "packet 3":

Upon receipt and approval of the visa applicant's I-130 petition, the initial set of forms and instructions, "packet 3", will be mailed to the visa applicant to begin processing his/her visa application.

- **Forms to immediately return to the U.S. Consulate General, Sydney upon receipt of "packet 3":**
 - The "Application for Immigrant Visa Application & Registration", forms DS-230 Parts I&II should immediately be completed by the visa applicant and returned to the U.S. Consulate General in Sydney. **DO NOT fax these forms but mail the originals to the Consulate.**

STEP TWO: THE VISA INTERVIEW (for visa applicant)

- **Scheduling the visa interview:**
 - The "Instructions for Immigrant Visa Applicants - Overview", lists items that you are expected to have for the visa interview. When you have obtained all of the documents required for your case, complete and mail Form DS-2001, which will advise us that you have all items and are ready for your final visa interview. The first available appointment will be scheduled.
 - While we cannot guarantee the interview will match your proposed travel plans, we will try to schedule it as near as possible to your desired departure date.
 - **Your interview will be scheduled only after** the Sydney Consulate has in their files an approved I-130 petition, DS-230 Parts I&II and your DS-2001 forms.

Warning: Don't buy your ticket yet!

- There may be delays in processing a visa, and unexpected ineligibilities that become apparent only at the time of interview at the U.S. Consulate in

Sydney. For this reason, **DO NOT** make definite travel arrangements, purchase non-refundable tickets, sell your home, or quit your job until after the consular officer approves and issues an immigrant visa to you. You will have six (6) months from the date the visa is issued to travel to the United States.

Processing the Visa:

- The total application processing and security surcharge fee is **US\$380.00 or AUS\$494.00 per person**. This fee can be paid in the form of cash, credit card, money order or bank check made payable to the "US Consulate". Pay this fee on the day of interview before the interview process begins. This fee is **non-refundable**, whether or not the visa is issued. Immigrant visa fees **cannot and will not** be waived.
- If it is determined on the day of your interview that you need to submit additional documents, you may do so by mailing the additional documents to this office, and to enclose a pre-paid self-addressed 3kg Express Post envelope with the documents. We will mail your visa to you in the envelope you provide when your visa is issued.
- **Same-day turn around for visa services is no longer feasible.** You are required to bring to your interview a self-addressed 3kg Express Post envelope (plastic satchel), which can be purchased from Australia Post. This envelope will be used to mail to you, your visa. An immigrant visa is valid for six months from the date of issuance.

The Consulate General in Sydney is the **ONLY** office that processes U.S. immigrant visa applications in Australia. The American Embassy at Canberra and the Consulates General at Melbourne and Perth **do not** process immigrant, K1/K2 fiancée(e), V or K3/K4 visas, however, the consulates (not the Embassy) are permitted to accept I-130 petitions for filing and approval. **Information on these categories of visas is available by mail or e-mail through the Immigrant Visa Unit for the Consulate General in Sydney or our website at <http://usembassy-australia.state.gov>** All inquiries about immigration should be directed to the Immigrant Visa Unit of the Consular Section at Sydney at the above address or by email at sydneyiv@state.gov

Enclosed:

Petition, Form I-130 & instructions

Affidavit of support, form I-864 & instructions

FILING I-130 PETITIONS FOR SPOUSES, CHILDREN & STEPCHILDREN

THIS IS YOUR CHECKLIST

****Warning: If you do not have the appropriate documentation, the petition may not be accepted and you will have to return to file it another day.**

DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED FOR U.S. CITIZEN PETITIONER

- ☐ Fee of US\$190 (exact amount if paying in cash or credit card); or
- ☐ AUS\$247.00 in cash, credit card, postal money order or bank check made payable to the U.S. Consulate General, Sydney. NO PERSONAL OR COMPANY CHECKS ACCEPTABLE.
- ☐ Fully completed and signed I-130, Petition for Alien Relative.
- ☐ Valid U.S. passport and one photocopy of the biographic and photo page of passport.
- ☐ Original evidence of name change (if applicable) and one photocopy.
- ☐ Original evidence of termination of any prior marriages and one photocopy.
- ☐ Original current marriage certificate and one photocopy. *(The marriage certificate you signed on your wedding day is unacceptable. You must submit a copy issued by the Australian Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages or from the applicable Courts or Registrar offices of the country you were married in. The certificate must bear an original seal of that issuing office.)*
- ☐ One photograph as specified on this information sheet.
- ☐ One fully completed biographic data, form G-325A.
- ☐ Evidence of a valid relationship

DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED FOR FOREIGN SPOUSE

- ☐ Original evidence of name change (if applicable) and one photocopy.
- ☐ Original evidence of termination of any prior marriages and one photocopy.
- ☐ One photograph as specified on this information sheet.
- ☐ One fully completed biographic data form G-325A.

DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED FOR FOREIGN BORN CHILDREN OR STEPCHILDREN

PLEASE NOTE:

- **To file petitions for a step-child:** The child must have been under the age of 18 at the time the U.S. citizen petitioner married the child's natural parent.
- **Don't submit** the biographic data form G325A or photographs if filing for child or stepchild.

Do present the following for a child or stepchild:

- ☐ Original birth certificate of child/stepchild and one photocopy.
- ☐ Original evidence of name change or adoption decree (if applicable) and one photocopy.
- ☐ Original evidence of termination of any prior marriages of the child's natural parent (if applicable) and one photocopy.

I-130SpouseCoverSheet (04/20//06)

Composition Checklist

7 Steps to Successful Photos

- ☑ Frame subject with [full face, front view, eyes open](#)
- ☑ Make sure photo presents [full head](#) from top of hair to bottom of chin; height of head should measure 1 inch to 1-3/8 inches (25 mm to 35 mm)
- ☑ [Center head](#) within frame (see Figure 2 below)
- ☑ Make sure [eye height](#) is between 1-1/8 inches to 1-3/8 inches (28 mm and 35 mm) from bottom of photo
- ☑ Photograph subject against a plain white or off-white [background](#)
- ☑ [Position subject](#) and [lighting](#) so that there are no distracting shadows on the face or background
- ☑ Encourage subject to have a [natural expression](#)

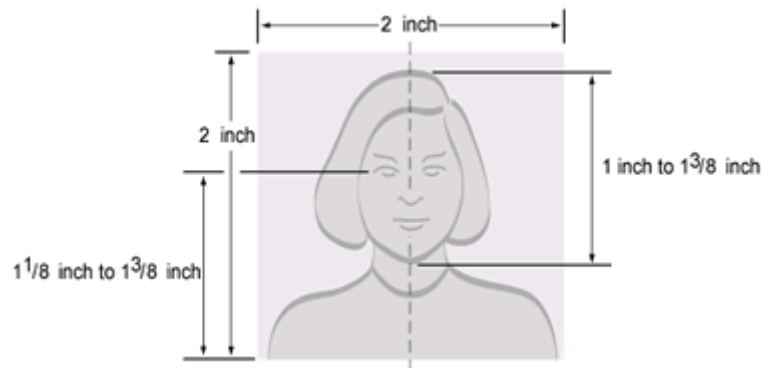


Figure 2. Head Position & Placement

Well-Composed Photos



PhotoInstForMRIV
(08/24/04)